The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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"Tis but a base ignoble mind That mounts no higher than a bird can soar.—Shakespeare.

VOL. 15, NO. 22. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1925. WHOLE NO. 749.

## ANTI-STRIKE LAWS ARE ILLEGAL FEDERAL SUPREME COURT RULES

Washington, Aug. 15.—In a public statement President Green quotes several decisions by the United States supreme court as an answer to "appeals from anti-unionists that congress should pass a law that would prevent cessation of work by underpaid and overworked employes."

"It is strange that so many people, especially those in public life, know so little about the constitution or supreme court decisions on matters pertaining to labor," said President Green. "Any law that prohibits employes from quitting work singly or collectively would be a violation of the thirteenth amendment, which prohibits involuntary servitude. It would also be in conflict with the fourteenth amendment, which assures freedom of contract."

The supreme court has declared that the Kansas court of industrial relations "curtails the right of the employer on the one hand and of the employe on the other to contract about his affairs."

The Kansas law empowered the court of industrial relations to set all wages on the theory that production is clothed with a public interest. The supreme court said:

"It has never been supposed, since the adoption of the constitution, that the business of the butcher, or the baker, or the tailor, the woodchopper, or the miner, was clothed with such a public interest that the price of his product could be fixed by state regulation."

In setting aside the women's minimum wage law the supreme court said: "That the right to contract about one's affairs is a part of the liberty of the individual protected by this clause (fifth amendment) is settled by the decisions of this court and is no longer open to question."

In the Adair decision, which set aside a state law which prohibited an employer from discharging a worker because he was a member of a trade union, the supreme court said:

"The right of a person to sell his labor upon such terms as he deems proper is in its essence the same as the right of the purchaser of labor to prescribe the conditions upon which he will accept such labor from the persons offering to sell. In all such particulars the employer and the employe have equality of right and any legislation that disturbs that equality is an arbitrary interference with the liberty of contract which no government can legally justify in a free land."

"These decisions," said President Green, "very clearly emphasize that neither congress nor any state legislature can pass legislation that will compel men and women to work against their will. Apparently the only answer is that it is being used for propaganda purposes, because it can not be believed that the president of the United States or his advisers are not aware of these supreme court decisions.

"Labor is as much opposed to strikes as employers, or what is generally termed the public. But it does not believe that it should be sacrificed on the altar of greed."

## *Wages Should Not Be Fixed On "Cost-Of Living" Basis*

There is a widespread belief that wages should be fixed on a cost-of-living basis. This idea is pernicious and intolerable. It means putting progress in chains and liberty in fetters. It means fixing a standard of living and a standard of life and liberty which must remain fixed. America's workers can not accept that proposition.

They demand a progressively advancing standard of life. They have an abiding faith in a better future for all mankind. They denounce a system of fixing wages solely on the basis of family budgets and bread bills.

Workers are entitled not only to a living, but modern society must provide more than what is understood by the term "a living." It must concede to workers a fairer reward for their contribution to society, a contribution without which a progressing civilization is impossible.—Labor conference called by A. F. of L., Washington, 1919.

## Negro Workers Advised To Join Union; They Are Exploited By Coal Operators

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 15.—Negro workers sympathetic to organized miners are circulating a protest against treatment of unorganized negro miners in West Virginia coal operating camps.

The circular states that the national association for the improvement of the negro workers of America has had a committee composed of many of the most influential negroes of America make a thorough investigation of the conditions of negro coal miners in northern West Virginia and especially with reference to the strike in that section that is being conducted by the United Mine Workers.

"We find that instead of the union scale being paid, as set forth in the Baltimore and New York agreements, our negro brothers are getting in instances $3 per day less than the union agreement," the investigators say.

"We find that instead of our people receiving a square deal as to the weight of coal they mine, there is no check weighman and the coal operator takes any number of pounds he desires to make payment for a ton of coal.

"We also find that the coal companies employ many guards and gunmen, whom they call watchmen, to protect their property. These gunmen, for the most part, come from the slums of the city, and instead of serving as watchmen, they give our people absolutely no protection, but rob them of their little earnings. Our women and so-called watchmen, are also in league with the dope ring from Chicago, which is furnishing dope to our people in these camps. The guards and company officials receive part of the profit on the dope.

"After careful investigation of the records and action of the United Mine Workers of America, we have no fear of contradiction that if negro miners ever expect to improve their lot and have their families live in accordance with the standards of the United States, their only hope is in joining the United Mine Workers of America.

"It is the only institution in and around the coal mines that can protect the negro workers, and we trust that our people will heed this call and immediately join with their fellow men who are fighting for the union scale of wages and working conditions in northern West Virginia.

"It has never been the purpose of our great organization to interfere in disputes, but the action of the coal companies in northern West Virginia in seducing negro miners to enter their employment at starvation wages under a gunman system that is worse than chattel slavery in the south makes it absolutely necessary to point out these terrible facts for your information.

"We appeal to every negro miner in northern West Virginia to heed the call to duty and demonstrate that they are just as good soldiers on the field of industrial battle as are their white brothers who are so valiantly fighting under the banner of the United Mine Workers of America."

## COMMUNISTS SET TRAP FOR NEGRO WORKERS

Washington, Aug. 15.—The so-called American negro labor congress that will meet in Chicago, October 25, is a communist scheme, said President Green, in a warning to negro members of organized labor.

The A. F. of L. executive said the originators of the congress would mislead negro workers into believing every grievance will be remedied by overturning the government and setting up a soviet republic.

"The American Federation of Labor has not, and will not, approve such a congress," said Mr. Green. "It will not be used to benefit the negro, but to instill into the lives of that race the most pernicious of doctrines—race hatred.

"Glittering phrases are used to stir the colored man.

"The negroes are led to believe that the dark races of the world are in rebellion against the whites and that all they need do is to form an American labor congress. Then, 'all social and political discrimination' will be wiped out.

"The originators of the congress have headquarters in Chicago. They conduct a number of communist organizations with interlocking directories that work under the direction of Moscow.

"A number of unions composed of colored men have been deceived into sending delegates. They have been led to believe they will attend a convention of union negroes. The fact is that the convention called by men who are not members of trade unions, or if they are they do not attend the unions of which they are members. The organized labor movement is expelling communists as rapidly as they are found out.

"Although there can not be more than a few hundred communists in the country, they would create the impression, because of their noise-making propaganda, that there are millions."

## UNIONIZING FARMER IS URGED BY EXPERT

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 15.—Let the farmers unionize if they would secure a greater share of the national wealth, said Henry Charles Taylor, chief of the bureau of market and crop estimates of the department of agriculture, in discussing the farmer at the institute of politics.

"There is danger of conflict between farmers and others," he said. "Each person engaged in the operations of distribution of farm products wants to increase his share of the profits, but he doesn't want others to increase the cost of the products by increasing their profits. It is as proper for the farmers to organize as it is for miners, plumbers, and business men to organize."

## LABOR CONDITIONS IN CHINA FRIGHTFUL

Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 15.—In a lecture on Oriental labor conditions Miss Ida Pruitt painted in an appalling state of affairs in China.

Thousands of children, some of them scarcely more than babies, work in silk spinning mills, while thousands of women toil from 14 to 15 hours a day, seven days a week.

Labor conditions in China are about as they were in England at the end of the eighteenth century," said Miss Dingman. "From 70 to 80 per cent of the textile workers are women. Little food. Two bowls of rice apparently so fatigued from the long shifts that they fall against the machinery and are badly injured or are killed. The miner's life is unguarded and there are no compensation laws."

## 11,689 U. S. EMPLOYES ON RETIREMENT ROLL

Washington, Aug. 15.—A report on the new civil service retirement law shows that 11,689 former United States employes are on the roll.

The annual report of the treasury reports that on June 30 last more than $78,000,000 has been paid into the fund. Two billion dollars is estimated $44,000,000. The fund has increased beyond expectations. These contributions are from individuals coming under the operation of the law and must, at some future time, be repaid to the persons contributing with compound interest at 4 per cent, either in the form of an annuity or a refund. Each contribution is credited to the individual contributing.

## PRISON LAW VOID

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 15.—The law creating the state board of prison industries has been declared unconstitutional by Attorney General Ottinger. This legislation was favored by Governor Smith, and is intended to rehabilitate industry in state prisons. One of the most important results expected was the probability of being able to pay prisoners a reasonable wage, instead of the present 44 cents a day maintained for years, which would aid them in maintaining their families.

Friends of the law declare the ruling will have no effect on present activities.

## EXPRESS LABOR IN WEST

San Bernardino, Aug. 15.—Organized labor in the state has joined forces with that of other Pacific coast sections in protesting against the attempt to break the west with workers.

"False reports by newspapers of this city has led workers to believe that building activity is going on here on a large scale," says the local building trades council.

"These reports are false. There is not sufficient work to care for residents."

## SAILORS INCREASE DUES

San Francisco, Aug. 15.—By a referendum vote the Sailors' union of the Pacific has raised monthly dues from $1 to $1.50.

## BARBERS REDUCE HOURS

Chicago, Aug. 15.—Organized barbers have given their controversy with employers and work hours will be reduced.

## COAL MINERS BREAK OFF WAGE PARLEY; OPERATORS FAVOR ONLY ENDLESS TALK

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 15.—Because of the refusal of anthracite coal operators to consider wage increases or grant the check-off, the miners declined to continue negotiations. The operators, naturally, are willing to continue the discussions indefinitely, even though they have declared their opposition to the things the conference is called for.

In short, the operators are willing to talk, but they announce that nothing definite will result.

The miners failed to secure the attendance of leading operators in the conference. In a letter to Samuel D. Warriner, chairman of the anthracite operators' conference, who, also, has failed to attend the conference, President Lewis indicted the operators for their rejection of every constructive suggestion.

The miners suggested that both parties join in a movement to recommend revision of extortionate rates charged by the anthracite coal-carrying roads. The operators declined.

The miners suggested that both parties join in a movement to ascertain the cost of mining coal. The operators declined.

The miners suggested that salaries paid corporation executives, high-priced attorneys, publicity men "and secret agents of various character" be made public. The operators declined.

In a previous letter to President Lewis, Mr. Warriner said that the public resents the strike of the coal miners' union. The trade unionist replied that the public "suffers most from the inconvenience of being periodically blackjacked and having its purse filched by what Governor Pinchot designates as 'a hard-boiled anthracite monopoly.'"

In refusing Mr. Warriner's suggestion that differences be arbitrated, President Lewis made this significant statement:

"The anthracite mine workers lost the goodly sum of $60,000,000 in wages, over a period of two years, to acquire the knowledge they now possess concerning the anthracite operators' well known policy of keeping close to an arbitrator. The anthracite mine workers shrink from any repetition of such an experience."

In a subsequent letter President Lewis said he could appreciate Mr. Warriner's "natural irritation" over any reference to that arbitration proceeding, which occurred "some years ago when the public will between arbitrator was changed between twilight and dawn."

## SINGLE TAX PRAISED; CHECKS LAND BOOMS

New York, Aug. 15.—The single tax would make impossible such a wild land boom as New Yorkers are now witnessing at Rockaway, according to James R. Firth, an alderman of Sydney, New South Wales. Rockaway is 30 miles from this city. Because of beach improvements, land values have increased by thousands of per cent.

"The single tax in Sydney," said Mr. Firth, "has operated to encourage the development of real estate and to discourage speculation.

"The holding of large tracts of land for a rise in value through improvements in the property or better transit facilities is not profitable when the land is taxed at its value, irrespective of improvements thereon. The result has been that tracts of land above Sydney have been opened up for homes and an amazingly large proportion of the population own houses.

"Many large companies, among them the Standard Oil, have been attracted to Sydney because the taxation is so much less than in other communities. In the 17 years since the single tax was adopted, more than 2,000 new factories have been established in Sydney and the population has increased from 550,000 to 1,100,000 while Melbourne, Sydney's greatest rival, has lagged far behind it."

## DAWES IS BEATEN

Swampscott, Mass., Aug. 15.—Vice President Dawes is hopelessly beaten in his campaign to change the senate rules, according to Senator Moses of New Hampshire, who called on the president here.

Senator McKellar of Tennessee voiced the same views. Both predict that defenders of the rules will tear the doughty general to pieces when the question reaches the senate floor. Opponents of Dawes declare he will be challenged if he claims that one man can change senate rules. It will also be shown that under the Dawes plan any proposal can be rushed through the senate. Under the present system, proposed legislation is thoroughly discussed before it comes to a vote. This affords a better public understanding of the issue.

## GEORGE GRAY IS DEAD

Wilmington, Del., Aug. 15.—George Gray, former United States senator and federal circuit judge, died at his home here after an extended illness. He was 85 years old.

He was chairman of the commission appointed by President Roosevelt in 1902 to settle the anthracite coal strike of that year. The commission was appointed after the miners stood solid for several months.

## PAN-AMERICAN LABOR URGED TO ORGANIZE

Washington, Aug. 15.—Spanish Secretary Iglesias of the Pan-American Federation of Labor is circulating Latin-American workers in the interest of a better understanding of the objects of the organization and greater solidarity. Mr. Iglesias succeeded Canuto Vargas, who is labor attache of the Mexican embassy in Washington.

The Pan-American Federation of Labor, said William Grossman, is composed of affiliated national labor movements in the western hemisphere. Its purpose is the welfare and interests of wage earnerse in these countries and the promotion of international understanding and good will between peoples and governments. Each affiliated labor movement retains its autonomy.

Until recently there was no communication between wage workers of the American continents, according to the Pan-American statement.

"The only relations were those established by the commercial and industrial interests, and these, as everyone knows, are not always actuated by a desire to promote the welfare of the people, nor do they represent the higher and nobler ideals of the American countries.

"These interests are actuated by three motives, namely, profits, profits and more profits. In their mad rush for material aggrandizement they lose sight of the interests of humanity.

"Since the financial, commercial and industrial interests of Pan-America are so closely allied, and are every day extending their exploitation activities over a wider field, the wage earners of Pan-America must unite for their own protection. In order that the organization of wage earners on a purely national scale will not be adequate for the protection and promotion of their interests and for a realization of their aspirations and hopes."

### WILL ENFORCE WAGE SCALE

Seattle, Aug. 15.—Municipal authorities will compel all labor connected with business for the city to pay the "going" scale of wages, as provided by the Seattle charter.

### BARBERS ORGANIZE

Stamford, Conn., Aug. 15.—Barbers in this city have organized and have affiliated to the Journeymen Barbers' International union.

### TEAMSTERS FORM UNION

Edmonton, Alberta, Can., Aug. 15.—Teamsters and chauffeurs in this city have organized and declare they will secure a 10 per cent wage increase.

### MUSICIANS RAISE WAGES

Baltimore, Aug. 15.—Musicians have raised wages 10 per cent in local houses.

## PRISON LABOR PLAN WEAKENS DEMOCRACY

New York, Aug. 15.—"The very fabric of our democratic form of government is being rotted by prison labor profits," says Kate Richards O'Hare, in a statement released by the United Garment Workers of America.

"The impeachment trial of Governor Walton of Oklahoma, in November, 1923, uncovered just one little ulcer of graft and corruption that is typical of the whole country. If the lid were lifted in almost any state where prison labor is used to make profits the stench would be equally bad.

"Judging from the testimony at the trial, Eli Brown, attorney for the Reliance manufacturing company, is rightfully in possession of the title which newspaper reporters have given him—'king of the fixers.'

"What happened in Oklahoma is typical of what is happening all over the country. Brown admitted that he declared that Eli Brown came to Oklahoma and scattered $1,000 bills, also states that he fraudulently donated $10,000 to the primary campaign expenses of Governor Walton with the willful and corrupt purpose of unjustly influencing officers of the state of Oklahoma in favor of the Reliance manufacturing company in the management of its business in the state penitentiary.

"Mr. Bader, secretary-treasurer of the company, admitted on the witness stand that he did not know how much was spent to secure the pardon, but that Eli Brown might have spent $200,000 without his knowledge."

## CAN DEAL WITH UNIONS

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 15.—The corporation counsel has ruled that there is no legal objection to the city dealing with a trade union through its representatives, or to any city employe joining a trade union.

The decision conflicts with views of reactionaries, who acknowledge that the city has the right to treat with organizations of a business character, for instance, and that employes may join any organization they elect.

Always, however, exception is raised when organized labor is involved.

### NEW LABOR LAW UPHELD

Chicago, Aug. 15.—Superior Court Judge Pam has upheld the new Illinois anti-injunction law, which prevents union strikers from picketing or from inducing other workers from joining the strike.

## CONGRESS MAY REOPEN TEAPOT DOME OIL CASE

Washington, Aug. 15.—It is possible that the Teapot Dome oil case will again be aired in congress, even though the government has appealed Federal Judge Hollister's decision to the circuit court of appeals.

This congressional probe will call the public's attention to rulings by Judge Kennedy which many declare have been unfair.

The Sinclair interests were connected with a corporation doing business in Canada. Judge Kennedy denied the government's request for a postponement of the trial that testimony in the case might be secured from officers of the company left his home in Canada to "hunt big game in Africa." Later the court denied the government's plea to reopen the case when several important witnesses who had been unavailable appeared.

These witnesses included officials of the Standard oil company and its subsidiaries.

The government also attempted to show that a large lot of Liberty bonds were transferred to the account of former Secretary of the Interior Fall in western banks, but Judge Kennedy refused to admit this testimony.

### AIR MUST CIRCULATE

Washington, Aug. 15.—Warning against entering any place where air does not circulate unless one is first assured that it contains enough oxygen to support life, is given by Dr. Thomas T. Read of the United States bureau of mines.

Wells, abandoned mines and other confined spaces where the air does not circulate may be filled with black damp, and the uncautious person who ventures into them may be asphyxiated. Black damp is a miner's term for air that has become depleted of its oxygen and consists mainly of nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It is not poisonous, but, being heavier than ordinary air, it lies in a confined space like a carbon dioxide. It is not poisonous, but, being heavier than ordinary air, it lies in a confined space like a blanket and to a standard of living and a standard of life and liberty which must remain fixed. America's workers can not accept that proposition.

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Workers are entitled not only to a living, but modern society must provide more than what is understood by the term "a living." It must concede to workers a fairer reward for their contribution to society, a contribution without which a progressing civilization is impossible.—Labor conference called by A. F. of L., Washington, 1919.

## SIGNED CONTRACT BROKEN BY COAL MEN

Charleston, Aug. 15.—Mining corporations of this state have repudiated their agreement with mine workers and have threatened to hide their perfidy behind the Stars and Stripes by calling their unholy scheme "the American plan," said Van A. Bittner, international representative of the United Mine Workers, in a report on the strike situation in the Fairmont field. These corporations include the Bethlehem mining corporation, subsidiary of the Bethlehem Steel corporation.

Mr. Bittner further charges that these corporations—

Evicted defenseless men and women from their homes.

Attempted to bribe local officers of the Miners' union.

Threatened to shut off the water supply from miners' homes in Wyatt.

Shut down the mines to starve these workers and their families.

### HIGHER PRICES PREDICTED

New York, Aug. 15.—Increased living prices are predicted by business observers. It is stated that the present upward trend will continue.

One financial writer offers this consolation to the wage worker:

"It is not an easy matter for the average consumer to enthuse over the stiffening of prices for the goods and commodities in daily use. Nevertheless such developments must be considered in the light of general economic progress and quite often the advent of higher prices ushers in a more prosperous situation for the salaried worker far removed in the daily routine from the articles in question.

"To the manufacturer, the producer, the distributor or the retailer the situation is quite different. An upward revision of prices may and quite often does, bridge the chasm between loss and eventual bankruptcy, and a full measure of prosperity, with funds for dividends and the enlargement of plus. Such a condition is apparently about to be ushered in, following directly upon a long upward movement in stock prices."

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Washington, Aug. 15.—A call for trade union volunteer speakers to aid the A. F. of L. publicity and organizing campaign has been issued to the officers of state federations of labor by President Green and John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the union label trades department, A. F. of L.

"We are now engaged in the consideration of preliminary plans of this campaign," the call states, "and by time must elapse before all details are arranged. This is a big undertaking, but it is an essential one. We are enthusiastic about it and expect to meet with great success."

### TERRIFYING PUBLIC

Portland, Ore., Aug. 15.—Trade unionists are laughing at the efforts of Thomas McCusker, secretary of the state merchants' and manufacturers' association, to keep in the limelight. In his weekly letter this anti-unionist says that the railroad brotherhoods and anthracite miners are in a secret compact to tie up the country to secure higher wages. While the organized workers laugh at McCusker, many people accept the anti-unionist's fire-alarm stuff.

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## MINERS CAN'T PRAY FOR STRIKEBREAKERS

Henrietta, Okla., Aug. 15.—Miners have been arrested for disobeying Sheriff Russell's order against outdoor prayer meetings of these strikers.

The miners and their wives have gathered daily in the vicinity of the mines, and invoked Divine help in persuading the strikebreakers to abandon their course.

After a conference with Governor Trapp, county officials declared that the strikebreakers found it "unpleasant" to have the unionists pray for them, and the religious practice was ordered discontinued. When several miners refused to obey they were arrested.

## COMPANY "UNION" SHAKY

Denver, Aug. 15.—Rockefeller's company "union" is in a shaky condition because of the second attempt to lower wages. Many sections of southern Colorado are aflame with trade union sentiment and the company "union" plan is in the weakest stage of its career. Its friends are silent because of the bold attempt of the Colorado fuel and iron company to use their "union" as a wage reducing club.

### MORONES TO ADDRESS LABOR

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 15.—President Calles of Mexico has notified the central labor council that he has instructed Luis N. Morones to make an address in his behalf to local trade unionists on Labor day. Mr. Morones was formerly president of the Mexican Federation of Labor, and at present is a member of President Calles' cabinet.

## STATE COMPENSATION CHEAPER THAN PRIVATE

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 15.—A study of comparative tables issued by the Ohio industrial commission will show why private insurance companies oppose state-operated workmen's compensation insurance. The table includes the states of New York, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

Benefits to the injured worker in the state of New York are about the same as in Ohio. Benefits in the other states are considerably under those of Ohio.

Private insurance companies must collect $1 for every 60 cents paid to the injured worker, as the average cost of administering compensation insurance by private companies is 40 per cent of their premium receipts. In Ohio all premium receipts must be used as benefits to injured workers, with the exception of 5 per cent which is used for accident prevention work, the state bearing the expense of administering the compensation law, which is less than 1 per cent of the premium receipts.

In Ohio $1 of compensation to the injured worker costs the employer $1.01 and the state 5 cents, or a total cost of $1.06 to provide $1 of compensation.

In the other states $1 of compensation requires $1.67 in premium. This accounts for the high rates when private insurance companies are permitted to exploit the wage workers' fatalities and injuries.

## "Stop Watch" Plan To Be Revived; System Has Many Excessive Costs

Washington, Aug. 15.—Stop-watch advocates will again endeavor to remove legal barriers from this sweating method, when congress convenes in December.

The efforts of anti-union employers to legalize these systems have resulted in a better understanding of the subject by representatives and senators. Recently a New York financial expert declared that workers at the Watertown arsenal performed two and one-half times as much work under the Taylor system as under the old system.

N. P. Alifas, president of District 44, International Association of Machinists, which includes navy yard and arsenal machinists, replies that the Watertown results do not include the accomplished by the employment of speed bosses, gang bosses, routing clerks, time study experts, planners, estimators, clerks and other supernumeraries, whose wages would have to be taken out of the alleged saving due to the increased production before it could be determined whether an actual saving has beene made," said Mr. Alifas.

"For instance, if two men are engaged in productive labor, and one of them is made a speed boss whose duty it is to see that the other man works harder, the one remaining producer could turn out twice the production without any actual saving in the cost of production."

In favor of a senate bill that would outlaw the speed-up system in government employ, several years ago, Senator Borah reported for the senate committee on education and labor:

"The clerical force necessary for the maintenance of these elaborate systems, makes the overhead charges exceedingly great, and it is a question whether the increased production of the workmen in the shop, upon which the heavy burden falls, is sufficient to pay the cost of the unproductive labor which has to be added."

"It will be observed," continued Senator Borah, "that the system in which ordinance materials are manufactured at less than half the cost of purchasing from private contractors is the place where it is proposed to install the Taylor system. We submit that the necessity does not exist for the installation of such a system of intensive production, with its accompanying disregard for the welfare of the employe, in a plant where efficiency has already reached an advanced stage."

## ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION ISSUE BEFOGGED BY PROFIT SEEKERS

Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 15.—Idealists and profit-seekers have confused the question of Oriental immigration, said Paul Scharrenberg, secretary of the California state federation of labor, at a meeting of the institute of Pacific relations.

"Immigration is a domestic problem and not a matter of treaty. It recognizes and so defines it," said the trade unionist.

The speaker said that if Californians were empowered to legislate on this question it would have been settled long before it assumed international relations. But it was necessary, under our form of government, to convince the nation.

"This was not an easy task. The small minority within the state whose interests were opposed to restrictive legislation were greatly reinforced by the merchants of older states who feared to jeopardize the rich trade of the Orient, and by idealists who were loath to recognize the world-old significance of race in the application of their theories of political and social equality."

Congressman John F. Miller of the state of Washington likewise scored idealists who ignore economic factors behind the oriental restriction law. This statute has for its purpose the protection of American living standards and not academic discussions which alter that fact, he said.

"No one was taken by surprise when the law was passed. It was discussed for years, and should be invoked long ago.

"Agitation will have no value now and academic discussions, it is well recognized, are largely directed at befogging the real issues. The law is based on economic necessity and that is why the attempts to assail it are going to be futile.

"America is well disposed toward all the peoples of the earth and we desire to help them, but we can not be expected to carry our efforts to a point of doing positive damage to our own people."